

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07 /071 W

----- 086590

R 230925Z FEB 76 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9772

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0919

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BG, IN, CH

SUBJ: NO INCIDENTS ON MARTYRS DAY

REF: DACCA 0804

1. THE FEBRUARY 21 OBSERVANCE OF MARTYRS DAY IN DACCA CAME AND WENT ZUTHOUT KNOWN INCIDENT. ACTIVITIES WERE WELL-ORGANIZED AND WELL-DISCIPLINED, INCLUDING THE NUMEROUS BAREFOOT PROCESSIONS BY VARIOUS GROUPS TO PAY HOMAGE AT THE SHAHEED MINAR (SHRINE TO THE MARTYRS OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 1952, BANGLA LANGUAGE DEMONSTRATION) IN THE DACCA UNIVERSITY AREA. POSTERS AND BANNERS IN THE PROCESSIONS APPEARED TO BE EXCLUSIVELY CULTURAL OR NATIONALISTIC, AND MOST OF THE MEETINGS AND SPEECHES OF THE DAY WERE DEVOTED TO EXTOLLING THE VIGOURES OF THE BANGALA LANGUAGE. EXACTLY WHAT EFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S WARNING AGAINST USING THE DAY FOR "PARTISAN PURPOSES OR POLITICAL GAIN" HAD IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS BUT THERE WAS NO RPT NO PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF ANY NOSTALGIA FOR THE AWAMI LEAGUE PAST.

2. HOWEVER, ONE GROUP CLEARLY SOUGHT TO MAKE POLITICAL
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CAPITAL OF THE DAY, ALTHOUGH IN A MANNER TO WHICH THE RE-

GIME COULD ONLY HAVE FOUND IT HARD TO OBJECT. THIS GROUP, HEADED BY AN ASSORTMENT OF ANTI-SOVIET AND PRO-CHINESE LEFTIST LEADERS SUCH AS MIRZA GOLAM HAFIZ AND ENEYETULLAH KHAN, WAS MORE ANTI-INDIAN THAN PRO-BANGLA IN ITS OBSERVANCE. AT ITS PUBLIC RALLY, SPEAKERS REPORTEDLY WARNED AGAINST THE THREAT OF FOREIGN AGGRESSION AND CALLED RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS AND JUTE GODOWN FIRES DELIBERATE EFFORTS TO "JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY." TWO RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED. THE FIRST CONDEMNED INDIA FOR ITS WITHDRAWAL OF GANGES RIVER WATER THROUGH FARAKK BARRAGE AND CALLED ON THE BDG TO TAKE ITS CASE BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THE SECOND RESOLUTION EXPRESSED "DEEP GRATITUDE" TO THE PRC FOR ITS SUPPORT TO BANGLADESH ON THE FARAKKA ISSUE.

BOSTER

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